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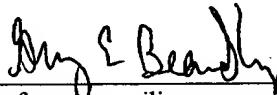
1652/4  
PATENT  
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Guy E. Beardsley

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Venkat Gopalan et al. Art Unit: 1652  
Serial No.: 09/516,061 Examiner: Charles L. Patterson Jr.  
Filed: March 1, 2000 Customer No.: 21559  
Title: NOVEL BACTERIAL RNASE P PROTEINS AND THEIR USE IN  
IDENTIFYING ANTIBACTERIAL COMPOUNDS

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2002, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 22-27, of the specification with the following paragraph that has been re-written in clean form.

B1  
Fig. 1 shows the sequence alignment of previously known bacterial RNase P protein subunits using the ClustalW alignment program (Thompson et al.,